

Sharp (J.) Archbishop of York

T H E

B--p of York's S P E E C H

T O

The House of Lords,

Relating to Dr. Sacheverel's Articles of Impeachment,

MY LORDS,

HERE is a Matter depending before Us of very great Weight and Consequence; it relates to Things both Spiritual and Temporal, Divine and Human. A Member of the Church of England stands Impeach'd at the Bar of the House, of very High Crimes and Misdemeanors; the Particulars of the Charge against him hath been Read before Us, with his Answer thereto; the latter of which (in my Judgment) seems in a great Measure very pertinent to the Matter, though how far Satisfactory to the Learned the Judges, in the Sense of the Law, I am not able to determine; though I humbly conceive the Laws of this Land do not, or at least ought not, contradict the Laws of God.

A true Minister of Christ should (according to the Doctrine of the Cross) neither be afraid nor ashamed to instruct and admonish the People committed to his Charge in the true Principles and Grounds of Religion, faithfully and honestly, without favour or affection, hope of reward or fear of displeasure, according to his Conscience, not only tell them from the Pulpit what they ought to do, but what they ought to avoid, and those Truths I think are visible enough to be read, both in the Old and New Testament.

But if the Person here meant has been too warm in his Zeal for the Church against Hypocrites (who are the worst Enemies to Christian Religion) and thereby given Offence to those it may concern; yet they ought to consider whether they are too good to Mend, or too great to be Reprov'd. A Skilful Surgeon always searches to the bottom of a Wound before he applies a healing Plaister, otherwise, by Skinning it over too soon, it breaks out again with more Pain and Peril: So a True Pastor of a Church must tell his hearers their Faults, and the Danger thereof, and not cry Peace, Peace to a People who are just ready for Destruction.

MY LORDS,

The Church was never yet without Enemies, nor I fear hardly ever will, so long as the grand Enemy of our Salvation is let loose amongst Us; and if there be no bold Shepherds in the time of Danger, to Watch the Motions of Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing, how can the Flock be safe? However, I humbly submit to what this Wise Assembly shall think fit to determine in the Matter.

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